

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

Claims 11-20 were pending in this application. Claims 11, 12 and 14 have been amended hereby. Accordingly, claims 11-20 will remain pending herein upon entry of this Amendment. For the reasons stated below, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance.

In the rejection affirmed by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences in the Decision mailed March 25, 2004, claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Leban, Mitani et al., Taub et al., and Hawkins et al. To the extent this ground of rejection is applied to amended claim 11, or claims dependent thereon, it is respectfully traversed.

As depicted in Figures 3A-3F and described in paragraphs 0054-0057 (paragraph 0056 having been previously amended), the present invention provides an off-center shooter mechanism to efficiently refill/re-supply a primary ink chamber (40). In the particular implementation recited in amended claim 11, a first heater is located in a primary ink chamber (40) and a second heater is located in an auxiliary ink chamber (42). Notably, these chambers (and corresponding heaters 28, 24) are located on opposing sides of an inlet end of a funnel-shaped manifold (20) that supplies ink to the ink jet head. This particular configuration is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record, and is therefore believed to be patentable over this prior art.

Indeed, a combination of Leban and Taub et al., as previously applied, results in a structure in which Taub et al.'s funnel-shaped manifold would be positioned fully to one side of both of the heaters (18, 20) of Leban. More specifically, Leban discloses heaters 18 and 20 in series with each other next to ink flow input port 26. The ink fill slot 18 of Taub et al. is likewise to one side of its heating element (resistor) 16. A combination of Leban and Taub et al. would, without the benefit of the disclosure of the present application, result in a structure where a funnel shaped manifold would feed ink to one side of a chamber having two heaters. Such a structure does not anticipate or suggest the configuration of the print head structure recited in amended claim 11, wherein the primary ink chamber is disposed substantially co-extensively with the first side of the manifold, and the auxiliary ink chamber is disposed substantially co-extensively with the second side of the manifold.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the art-based rejection of claim 11, based at least in part on Leban and Taub et al., be reconsidered and withdrawn.

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In view of the foregoing all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions or determine that any further action is desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

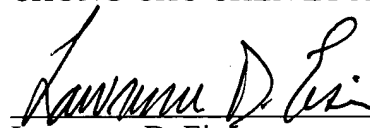
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Respectfully submitted,

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